



NEWS RELEASE

Lt. Col. John Whitford, Director of Communications, Connecticut National Guard

OFFICE: (860) 524-4857

CELL: (860) 883-5336

EMAIL: JOHN.WHITFORD@CT.NGB.ARMY.MIL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 8, 2005

THE CONNECTICUT NATIONAL GUARD AND THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY Three Students to be Honored for Submitting Essays

HARTFORD, Conn. – The Connecticut National Guard and the United States Postal Service will celebrate black history and contributions in a special program on **Friday, February 11, 2005** at the **Artists Collective** at 1200 Albany Ave, Hartford, Connecticut, from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., which is **free and open to the public.**

This year's theme is “The NAACP putting its stamp on History”. A historical presentation of the significant contributions of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) will be the highlight of the program.

The Costen’s cultural exhibit will display a collection of rare photographs, memorabilia and collectables reflecting the history of the NAACP. There will be the Dedication of the Marian Anderson Stamp by the United States Postal Service along with a special musical performance.

The celebration will also focus on the three students who will read their winning essays at this ceremony. This year’s winners are Vashti Clark, Grade 5, Momauguin School, East Haven, Conn., Jaime Beaver, Grade 8, East Hartford Middle School, East Hartford, Conn., and Lucineida Fonseca, Grade 12, Wilby High School, Waterbury, Conn.

(MORE)

CONNECTICUT ARMY NATIONAL GUARD



NEWS RELEASE

Lt. Col. John Whitford, Director of Communications, Connecticut National Guard

OFFICE: (860) 524-4857

CELL: (860) 883-5336

EMAIL: JOHN.WHITFORD@CT.NGB.ARMY.MIL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2-2-2

All three students will be presented with awards for their essays and U.S. Savings Bonds from the U.S. Postal Service.

Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno, the Adjutant General of the Connecticut National Guard and John W. Holden, Lead Plant Manager, U.S. Postal Service will present the awards.

The event's organizing committee chose the three essay contest winners out of more than 200 entries.

The keynote speaker for this year's celebration is Mr. Diallo Shabazz. Shabazz comes from a long line of progressive leaders. His grandfather was a Garvius in Marcus Garvey's Back-To-Africa movement in the 1920's and 30's, and on the stories of his father, a member of numerous Black organizations in the 1960's and 70's who stressed the importance of education, collective identity, and strategic planning.

As a student leader at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Shabazz played a key role in addressing racism and discrimination on campus. He assisted in organizing rallies to protect affirmative action, diversify student recruitment, and expand services and resources for students of color. Shabazz was instrumental in designing the infrastructure of the Multicultural Student Coalition, one of the most cross-culturally effective and highly funded student organizations in the country.

(MORE)

CONNECTICUT ARMY NATIONAL GUARD



NEWS RELEASE

Lt. Col. John Whitford, Director of Communications, Connecticut National Guard

OFFICE: (860) 524-4857

CELL: (860) 883-5336

EMAIL: JOHN.WHITFORD@CT.NGB.ARMY.MIL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

3-3-3

Shabazz works as the Northeast Region Youth Field Director for the Youth and College Division of the NAACP. In this capacity, he works on leadership training, education, voter empowerment, criminal justice, economic empowerment, and health issues with over fifty NAACP Youth Councils and College Chapters. He has received several leadership awards, been interviewed by numerous national publications, and has appeared on several television programs, including ABC's 20/20.

The U.S. Postal Service will unveil a stamp commemorating singer Marian Anderson. Anderson was born on February 27, 1897 in South Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Beginning at the age of six, she sang in the Union Baptist Church Choir. Her voice was classified as contralto, she could sing the high soprano notes and the low baritone notes.

In 1941, Anderson received the Bok Award from the city of Philadelphia, given to the citizen of which it is the most proud. She was the first African American to receive the award. The \$10,000 award was used to establish the Marian Anderson Scholarship Fund for music students of all races. In 1943, Anderson married Orpheus Fisher, an architect, who designed their home in Danbury, Connecticut named "Marrianna Farm."

On January 7, 1955, Anderson performed with the Metropolitan Opera Company

(MORE)

CONNECTICUT ARMY NATIONAL GUARD



NEWS RELEASE

Lt. Col. John Whitford, Director of Communications, Connecticut National Guard

OFFICE: (860) 524-4857

CELL: (860) 883-5336

EMAIL: JOHN.WHITFORD@CT.NGB.ARMY.MIL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

4-4-4

in New York as Ulrica, the Gypsy fortune-teller, in Verdi's opera "The Masked Ball."

With this appearance, she became the first African-American to sing an important role at the Metropolitan Opera as a regular company member.

In 1956, Anderson made a farewell tour throughout America and Europe. In 1957, she toured twelve Asian nations on behalf of the U.S. State Department. In 1958, she was named to the U.S. delegation to the United Nations. In 1986, Anderson received the National Medal of Arts. She received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1963.

In 1991, she appeared at the dedication of St. Christopher's Hospital for Children's pediatric sickle-cell anemia clinic and research center, which is named in her honor.

Anderson died in 1993 at the age of ninety-six. During her professional singing career she was considered the world's greatest contralto.

Also included is a special performance and special appearances by radio personalities from HOT 93.7.

Ms. Veronica Douglas, Director of Special Projects at News Channel 8, is the master of ceremonies.

The Connecticut National Guard and the U.S. Postal Service sponsor the 19th annual program. A reception will immediately follow the program.

-30-

CONNECTICUT ARMY NATIONAL GUARD